

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of operating a message server:
 - 2 a) sending a first portable document file to a client system, the first portable
 - 3 document file comprising data content selectable by the user;
 - 4 b) receiving a message, the message comprising both:
 - 5 identification of the first portable document file; and
 - 6 identification of the displayed data content selected by the user;
 - 7 c) using the identification of the first portable document file and the
 - 8 identification of the displayed data content selected by the user to locate a second
 - 9 portable document file that is related to the content selected by the user; and
 - 10 d) providing the second portable document file to the client system.
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- 1 2. The method of operating a message server of claim 1, wherein the step of using
- 2 the identification of the first portable document file and the identification of the displayed
- 3 content selected by the user to locate a second portable document file that is related to
- 4 the content selected by the user comprises:
 - 5 i) utilizing work flow tables to map the identification of the first portable
 - 6 document file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user
 - 7 to at least one of a title of the second portable document file and an address of the
 - 8 second portable document file within a database; and
 - 9 ii) retrieving the second portable document file from the database.
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- 1 3. The method of operating a message server of claim 1:
 - 2 wherein the message further comprises identification of the user of the client
 - 3 system;
 - 4 the step of using the identification of the first portable document file and the
 - 5 identification of the displayed data content selected by the user to locate a second

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6 portable document file that is related to the content selected by the user further
7 comprises using the identification of the user of the client system to determine whether
8 the user has permissions to access the second portable document file; and

9 the step of providing the second portable document file to the client system

10 comprises only providing the second portable document file to the client system if the
11 user of the client system has permissions to access the second portable document file.

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1 4. The method of operating a message server of claim 3, wherein the step of using
2 the identification of the first portable document file and the identification of the displayed
3 content selected by the user to locate a second portable document file that is related to
4 the content selected by the user comprises:

5 i) utilizing work flow tables to map the identification of the first portable
6 document file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user
7 to at least one of a title of the second portable document file and an address of the
8 second portable document file within a database; and

9 ii) retrieving the second portable document file from the database.

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1 5. The method of operating a message server of claim 4, wherein the step of
2 providing the second portable document file to the client system only if the user of the
3 client system has permissions to access the second portable document file comprises:

4 utilizing the work flow tables to map the identification of the user of the client
5 system to an access level;

6 comparing the access level to a required access level; and

7 providing the second portable document file to the client system only if the
8 access level is greater than or equal to the required access level.

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1 6. The method of operating a message server of claim 1, further comprising
2 sending a message server address to the client system as a message server address
3 update message that is a file distinct from the first portable document file, the message

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4 server address being an address at which the message is received.

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1 7. The method of operating a message server of claim 6, wherein the step of using
2 the identification of the first portable document file and the identification of the displayed
3 content selected by the user to locate a second portable document file that is related to
4 the content selected by the user comprises:

5 i) utilizing work flow tables to map the identification of the first portable
6 document file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user
7 to at least one of a title of the second portable document file and an address of the
8 second portable document file within a database; and

9 ii) retrieving the second portable document file from the database.

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1 8. The method of operating a message server of claim 6:
2 wherein the message further comprises identification of the user of the client
3 system;
4 the step of using the identification of the first portable document file and the
5 identification of the displayed data content selected by the user to locate a second
6 portable document file that is related to the content selected by the user further
7 comprises using the identification of the user of the client system to determine whether
8 the user has permissions to access the second portable document file; and

9 the step of providing the second portable document file to the client system
10 comprises only providing the second portable document file to the client system if the
11 user of the client system has permissions to access the second portable document file.

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1 9. The method of operating a message server of claim 8, wherein the step of using
2 the identification of the first portable document file and the identification of the displayed
3 content selected by the user to locate a second portable document file that is related to
4 the content selected by the user comprises:

5 i) utilizing work flow tables to map the identification of the first portable

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6 document file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user
7 to at least one of a title of the second portable document file and an address of the
8 second portable document file within a database; and

9 ii) retrieving the second portable document file from the database.

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1 10. The method of operating a message server of claim 9, wherein the step of
2 providing the second portable document file to the client system only if the user of the
3 client system has permissions to access the second portable document file comprises:

4 utilizing the work flow tables to map the identification of the user of the client
5 system to an access level;

6 comparing the access level to a required access level; and

7 providing the second portable document file to the client system only if the
8 access level is greater than or equal to the required access level.

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1 11. A message server for dynamically managing the relationship between portable
2 document file content and related portable document files, the message system
3 comprising:

4 a) a web server module:

5 i) providing a first portable document file to a client system, the first
6 portable document file comprising data content selectable by the user;

7 ii) receiving a message from the client system, the message comprising
8 both:

9 identification of the first portable document file; and

10 identification of the displayed data content selected by the user;

11 iii) providing a second portable document file to the client system, the
12 second portable document file being related to the content selected by the user; and

13 c) a work flow module using the identification of the first portable document
14 file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user to locate the
15 second portable document file.

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1 12. The message server of claim 11, wherein the work flow module comprises work
2 flow tables, the work flow module:

3 i) utilizing the work flow tables to map the identification of the first portable
4 document file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user
5 to at least one of a title of the second portable document file and an address of the
6 second portable document file within a database; and

7 ii) retrieving the second portable document file from the database.

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1 13. The message server of claim 11 wherein:

2 the message further comprises identification of the user of the client system;
3 the work flow module further uses the identification of the user of the client
4 system to determine whether the user has permissions to access the second portable
5 document file; and

6 providing the second portable document file to the client system occurs only if
7 the user of the client system has permissions to access the second portable document
8 file.

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1 14. The message server of claim 13, wherein the work flow module comprises work
2 flow tables, the work flow module:

3 i) utilizing the work flow tables to map the identification of the first portable
4 document file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user
5 to at least one of a title of the second portable document file and an address of the
6 second portable document file within a database; and

7 ii) retrieving the second portable document file from the database.

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1 15. The message server of claim 14, wherein the work flow module further utilizes
2 the work flow tables to:

3 map the identification of the user of the client system to an access level;

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4 compare the access level to a required access level; and
5 provide the second portable document file to the client system only if the access
6 level is greater than or equal to the required access level.

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1 16. The message server of claim 11, wherein the message server further sends a
2 message server address to the client system as a message server address update
3 message that is a file distinct from the first portable document file, the message server
4 address being an address at which the message is received.

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1 17. The message server of claim 16, wherein the work flow module comprises work
2 flow tables, the work flow module:

3 i) utilizing the work flow tables to map the identification of the first portable
4 document file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user
5 to at least one of a title of the second portable document file and an address of the
6 second portable document file within a database; and

7 ii) retrieving the second portable document file from the database.

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1 18. The message server of claim 16 wherein:

2 the message further comprises identification of the user of the client system;
3 the work flow module further uses the identification of the user of the client
4 system to determine whether the user has permissions to access the second portable
5 document file; and

6 providing the second portable document file to the client system occurs only if
7 the user of the client system has permissions to access the second portable document
8 file.

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1 19. The message server of claim 18, wherein the work flow module comprises work
2 flow tables, the work flow module:

3 i) utilizing the work flow tables to map the identification of the first portable

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4 document file and the identification of the displayed data content selected by the user
5 to at least one of a title of the second portable document file and an address of the
6 second portable document file within a database; and

7 ii) retrieving the second portable document file from the database.

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1 20. The message server of claim 19, wherein the work flow module further utilizes
2 the work flow tables to:

3 map the identification of the user of the client system to an access level;
4 compare the access level to a required access level; and
5 provide the second portable document file to the client system only if the access
6 level is greater than or equal to the required access level.

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